

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 8, 2003

Recent public attention on Law Enforcement and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigations has shown that child safety has been compromised to preserve the integrity of criminal investigations. This practice has been attributed to a lack of trust between law enforcement and DCFS, a lack of knowledge of each other's departmental procedures and protocols, and a consistent inability to communicate effectively regarding investigations that present criminal and child abuse and neglect issues.

A demonstrated need exists to forge a better partnership between DCFS and Law Enforcement to protect abused and neglected children through shared guidelines, established protocols, on-going training and the sharing of information. A critical component of this new partnership between both entities is the necessity to develop a plan to consistently respond to at risk children in narcotic and/or gang related warrant executed investigations.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT** the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Children and Family Services to expand its working collaboration with all other

MOTION

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independent law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County similar to what is being established with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Such collaboration should address all possible steps to protect the integrity of the criminal investigation without compromising child safety. I further move that DCFS seek to dedicate resources to establish a multi-agency response team who can:

1. Respond expeditiously to law enforcement executed warrants where children are suspected to be at risk from gang and/or drug related factors and
2. Work with community based organizations to refer and provide appropriate services to impacted children and families
3. Lastly, that DCFS provide a status report back to the Board in 60 Days.

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